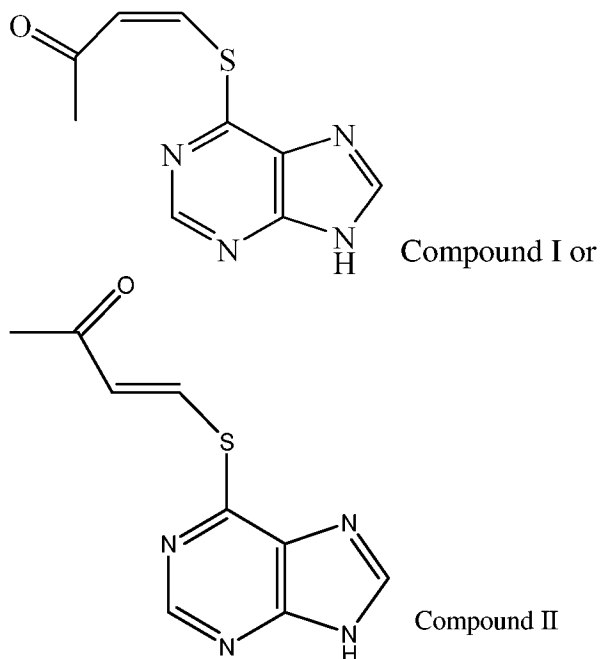


What is claimed is:

[Claim 1] A method for inhibiting replication of an RNA virus comprising contacting said RNA virus with a replication-inhibiting amount of a compound having the formula:



[Claim 2] A method according to claim 1, wherein said RNA virus is a flavivirus.

[Claim 3] A method according to claim 2, wherein said flavivirus is hepatitis C virus (HCV) or bovine diarrhea virus (BVDV).

[Claim 4] A method according to claim 1, wherein said contacting occurs *in vivo*.

[Claim 5] A method according to claim 1, wherein said contacting occurs in a glutathione rich cell or tissue.

[Claim 6] A method according to claim 5 wherein said cell or tissue is liver, kidney or gastrointestinal tract tissue.

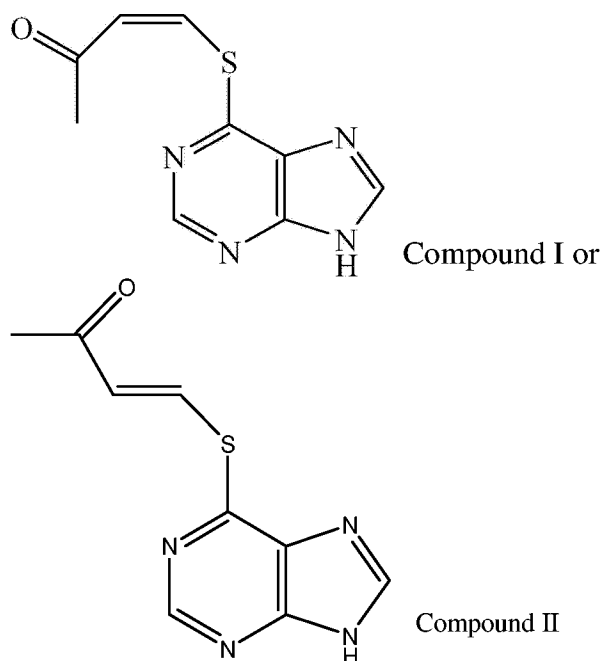
[Claim 7] A method according to claim 1, wherein said compound (I) or (II) is associated with a targeting agent.

[Claim 8] A method according to claim 1, wherein said compound further comprises a glycoside.

[Claim 9] A method according to claim 1, wherein a derivative of said compound is a metabolite of compound (I) or (II).

[Claim 10] A method according to claim 9, wherein said metabolite of compound (I) or (II) is 6-mercaptopurine.

[Claim 11] A method for inhibiting replication of an RNA virus in a host comprising administering to a host in need thereof a pharmaceutical composition including a therapeutically effective amount of a compound having the formula:



[Claim 12] A method according to claim 11, wherein said RNA virus is a flavivirus.

[Claim 13] A method according to claim 12, wherein said flavivirus is hepatitis C virus (HCV).

[Claim 14] A method according to claim 11, wherein compound (I) or (II) is associated with a targeting agent.

[Claim 15] A method according to claim 11, wherein said host is a liver transplant patient.

[Claim 16] A method according to claim 11, wherein said compound further comprises a glycoside.

[Claim 17] A method according to claim 11, wherein a derivative of said compound is a metabolite of compound (I) or (II).

[Claim 18] A method according to claim 17, wherein said metabolite of compound (I) or (II) is 6-mercaptopurine.

[Claim 19] A method according to claim 17, wherein said derivative possessing antiviral activity is associated with a targeting agent capable of targeting said derivative to a pre-selected cell or tissue.

[Claim 20] A method according to claim 19 wherein said pre-selected cell or tissue is lung tissue.